

Wolfowitz: Let's Change the Rules! L'appello

An appeal of European economists

Paul Wolfowitz has been nominated to be the next President of the World Bank. Since the Bank was created almost sixty years ago, its President has always been a US citizen nominated by the US government.

At the very least, Mr. Wolfowitz is a highly controversial choice. He has not been supportive of the multilateral institutions and has not demonstrated in the past his support of the development community. His nomination to head the World Bank, the most prominent multilateral institution promoting development, exposes glaringly the limitations of the current selection process for such positions.

We urge all Governors to open up this process. Traditionally, the choice of the heads of the IMF and the Bank is, respectively, a European and a US prerogative. This latest proposal of a highly controversial candidate demonstrates that the time has come to change this system. It is outdated, undemocratic, opaque and increasingly unable to select the best or even the right person for the job. Proper governance of the multilateral institutions requires widely accepted multilateral procedures.

Those who wish to endorse this appeal should write to appello@lavoce.info specifying their affiliation.

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